

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 TRSE-00

COME-00 SCI-06 CU-04 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 SWF-02

AGR-20 DRC-01 /194 W

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TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE ON SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR
KAUL FOCUSES ON "NO CHANGE" IN US ARMS POLICY

REF: NEW DELHI 7623

1. STORIES BY WASHINGTON-BASED INDIAN CORRESPONDENTS REPORTING THE DISCUSSION AT THE SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL RECEIVED PROMINENT TREATMENT IN FOUR LEADING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES ON JUN 9. THE PRESTIGIOUS TIMES OF INDIA AND THE HINDUSTAN TIMES HEADLINED THEIR PIECES "U.S. ARMS POLICY IN S.ASIA UNCHANGED," AND "NO CHANGE IN U.S. ARMS SUPPLY POLICY" RESPECTIVELY, AND EMPHASIZED THIS ASPECT OF THE CONVERSATION IN THE LEAD PARAGRAPHS. THE STATESMAN AND INDIAN EXPRESS HEADLINED THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE INDIAN EXPRESS STATED THAT DR. KISSINGER "REAFFIRMED WHAT HE HAD ALREADY HINTED AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY, NAMELY THAT INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST WOULD NOT HAVE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS OR ON HIS VISIT." THE STATESMAN ARTICLE MENTIONED THAT THE "SECOND POSTPONEMENT IS DUE

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ENTIRELY TO DR. KISSINGER'S PREOCCUPATION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON'S

FORTHCOMING VISITS TO WEST ASIA AND MOSCOW." THE NEWS ACCOUNTS REFER TO THE PLANS TO SIGN AN INDO-US AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING A JOINT COMMISSION TO INITIATE AND OVERSEE COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL AREAS DURING THE VISIT. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES ADDS THAT DRAFTS OF THE AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN RECENTLY EXCHANGED AND "REVEAL NO BASIC DIVERGENCE OF APPROACH TO THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A PERMANENT BILATERAL BODY."

2. THREE OF THE FOUR ACCOUNTS STATED THAT MRS. KISSINGER AND DR. KISSINGER'S TWO CHILDREN HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED TO VISIT INDIA. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES ADDS THAT THE SECRETARY INFORMED AMBASSADOR KAUL DURING THE LUNCHEON THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE NEW DELHI, EVEN IF BUSINESS CONFINES HIM TO THE CAPITAL. KAUL IS ALSO QUOTED AS REMARKING THAT THE POSTPONEMENT HAS BEEN FORTUITOUS SINCE THE DELHI WEATHER IS MUCH BETTER IN THE FALL THAN IN MAY.

3. A SMALL ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA JUNE 10, DATED WASHINGTON, STATES: "DR. KISSINGER HAS INFORMED THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT INDIA IN AUGUST PROVIDED HE HAS RESPIRE FROM FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD, US OFFICIALS SAID TODAY."

4. ON OTHER ASPECTS OF INDO-US RELATIONS, AMBASSADOR KAUL IS CITED BY PRESS STORIES AS THE SOURCE FOR THE COMMENT THAT DR. KISSINGER "CURIOUSLY" OFFERED NO CLEAR INDICATION OF THE US POSITION ON DEBT RESCHEDULING AND SAID ONLY THAT THE US WAS CAREFULLY REVIEWING THE POINT AND WAS AWARE OF INDIA'S NEED.

5. KAUL IS SAID TO BELIEVE THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST MAY HAVE IMPROVED INDO-US RELATIONS BY "REEMPHACIZINGTO POWER-CONSCIOUS DR. KISSINGER THAT INDIA IS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH." KAUL ALLEGEDLY TOLD DR. KISSINGER THAT THE INDIAN TEST WOULD "HAVE A STABILIZING EFFECT POLITICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND WILL LEAD TO GREATER CONFIDENCE BOTH AMONG PEOPLE OF INDIA AND THE REGION."

6. DR. KISSINGER IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE MADE CLEAR WHAT "KAUL ALREADY KNEW," THAT THE US CONGRESS WAS IN AN ANTI-AID MOOD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND EVEN INDIA'S "MINOR ALLOCATION OF \$75 MILLION" MIGHT "FALL VICTIM TO OVERALL BUDGET CUTTING." FERTILIZER AND GRAIN AT "CONCESSIONAL RATES MAY GO THROUGH, BUT VIA THE UN'S NEW PROGRAM" FOR HELPING STATES WORST HIT BY FUEL "FOOD" FERTILIZER PRICE CRUNCH. MOYNIHAN

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